

# Faughanvale Presbyterian Church Mission Plan –Reviewed September 2015

## “Connect”

### Introduction

This mission plan has been prepared in line with the “Tell it Again” mission planning process using the following key themes:

Why?..... (the Bible’s story of God’s mission to the world)

Who?..... (the story of our congregation’s life and witness)

Where?..... (the story of our local area)

What?.... (the story of what God is calling us to do)

When?.... (the unfolding of the story God is calling us to be part of in the future)

### Why?.....(the Bible’s story of God’s mission to the world)

In setting the background for the mission plan, it is clear that:

As Christians we have come into a **relationship** with God – but that relationship brings responsibilities

The responsibility of **stewardship** towards all God has given us The responsibility of **action** – living lives changed by the Gospel The responsibility of **sharing** the Good News of Jesus Christ We have to take on these responsibilities **ourselves**

We have a responsibility to act in **humility**

The responsibility to **communicate** God’s message, through teaching,

educating, influencing and baptising

*As we accept our responsibilities we believe that we will see God at work and so we pray that His will may be accomplished in our midst.*

### Who?.....(the story of our congregation’s life and witness)

Our discussions centred around the history and tradition of our church and a number of key points were identified:

Long tradition – established in 1730. Traditionally rural/farming community

Excellent facilities – Church Halls

Innovative Worship – Organ Music, Children’s Day, Sunday School Excursion, Crèche, PowerPoint

Involved in Local Mission – clubs, youth

Involved in Overseas Mission – Support for BB initiative in India. Financial Support to Stephen Cowan in Kenya

Record of good Team-working – fund-raising, construction of Millennium Hall, etc

Strong children’s ministry with long connections with youth – Girl’s Auxiliary, Boy’s Brigade, Guides, Fusion, etc.

*It is evident that as a church we have a lot to live up to. There is a long tradition of service to the community and involvement in mission both locally and abroad. In short we are a caring church that hasn’t been afraid of change and progress.*

## Church Activities

<b>Infants (Aged 1 – 4)</b>	<b>Crèche, Baptism</b>
<b>Primary School (5 – 11)</b>	<b>Sunday School, Anchor Boys, Juniors Section of Boys’ Brigade, Rainbows, Brownies</b>
<b>Teenagers (12 – 18)</b>	<b>Fusion (Youth fellowship), Sunday School, Bible Class, Company and Senior Section of Boys’ Brigade, Guides, Rangers ,Flame Drop-in Centre (Youth Outreach)</b>
<b>Young Adult (20 – 30)</b>	<b>Younger members of PW</b>
<b>Young Parents (31 – 45)</b>	<b>Family Service, PW, Baptism</b>
<b>Mature Family (46 – 60)</b>	<b>Bowling Club, PW</b>
<b>Retired (60+)</b>	<b>Bowling Club, PW, Sunshine Club</b>

*An analysis of Church activities shows that whilst there are a large number of organisations catering particularly for children and teenagers, there is a void particularly in the young adult and adult male areas.*

## Where?.....(the story of our local area)

An analysis of our local area demonstrates that we live in:

Growing, busy villages of Eglinton and Greysteel which are expanding rapidly

Also local commercial/business area

A safe environment with a 50:50 mix of religions

Generally affluent area – high proportion of owner occupied households

An area which experiences some crime, drug, alcohol abuse and social needs

An aging population

A changing village and area – rural community now commuter town

Little activities for teenagers

Good educational standards

Good community co-operation

High educational achievement – many teenagers progress to higher education

27% births to unmarried mothers – lower than NI average.

*We should count ourselves very fortunate to live in an affluent, safe area with excellent educational standards but we need to recognise that it has changed radically over the last twenty years and is continuing to change. That change obviously brings many challenges.*

## **What?....(the story of what God is calling us to do)**

In considering what God is calling us to do, we identified both Internal and External issues which need to be addressed.

### **Internal Issues:**

Infrequent Church attendance by many members

Low proportion of growing population in the village in church membership or attending church

Low representation from 25-40 age group

Loss of contact with teenagers after they become full church members

Strong youth groups but a need to encourage stronger links with church attendance/involvement especially after young people leave the youth organizations

Difficult to get to know new members

The Church is “out of sight – out of mind” (need to raise local awareness)

Less involvement in community than in the past

Poor attendance at evening services

People reluctant to get involved or volunteer – “same faces all the time.”

### **External Issues:**

Crime, drugs, alcohol culture and social needs

Teenage boredom – e.g. Eglinton busy in the evenings with young folk hanging around

Increasing number of unmarried mothers

Village centres around the “Happy Landing” bar, not the church

Both parents working – no time for church

New people coming into the area/villages

People feel they don't need church – secular society

Potential for greater involvement in overseas mission.

**We then developed what our Mission Statement should be:**

**“To present the gospel of Christ in a relevant way to all”**

In considering our Mission Statement and looking at the various internal and external issues that we had identified, we felt that there were four key areas or themes involved and that a key theme of Connections was evident. Our Mission Plan should therefore address the issues identified under each theme.

### **Church Worship**

- Infrequent Church attendance
- Poor attendance at evening services
- Low representation from 25-40 age group
- Both parents working – no time for church

### **Youth and Children's Ministry**

- Lose touch with teenagers after they become full members.
- Strong youth groups but need to encourage stronger links with church attendance/involvement
- Crime, drugs and alcohol culture
- Teenage boredom e.g. Eglinton busy in the evenings with young folk hanging around

### **Fellowship and Commitment**

- Difficult to get to know new members
- Less involvement in community than in the past
- People reluctant to get involved
- New people coming into the area but not seeking any involvement with the church

### **Church Profile and Witness**

- Out of sight – out of mind (need to raise local awareness)
- Increasing number of unmarried mothers
- People feel they don't need church – secular society
- Social needs
- Greater involvement in overseas mission
- Village centres around the "Happy Landing" bar, not the Church

## **When?.... (the unfolding of the story God is calling us to be part of in the future)**

*This section considers what we intend to do within our Mission Plan and when these events are expected to happen, see year plan.*

*A critical aspect of the plan is the recognition that the responsibility for the implementation of the plan should involve a larger group of people than the current six person Mission Plan committee. It is planned to hold a focus group of key influencers within the congregation in September and with God's guidance encourage greater ongoing participation through this approach. However, we recognize that the work of mission is ongoing and our plan also includes current events which are already in progress.*

*It must also be noted that this is an ongoing process and we plan to refresh the Mission Plan on an annual basis and review progress against the action plan on a six-monthly.*

## Key Actions

Many of the key actions identified in 2010 are still relevant to date. Some changes have been incorporated and new actions introduced.

### Church Worship

- **Church Service Structure** – Whilst attendance at the regular family services is good, there is a noticeable drop in attendance at the normal church worship. We have started Messy church to attract families who don't attend church. This informal setting on a Sunday afternoon has been well received with a number of new families joining us at these services. Messy church is still developing and showing encouraging results. "ACTION: Seek to improve attendance at ordinary church services by employing elements of family services. Review and seek to improve the effectiveness of Messy Church?)
- **Sunday Fellowship** – We continue to hold occasional evening Praise services and a more informal Thanksgiving Service on Communion Sunday's. Consider the need and content of evening services . " ACTION: Review and redesign Sunday evening services, perhaps moving towards a Bible study/discussion format"
- **Pastoral** – We are conscious that the issue of the elderly and sick in the congregation needs further discussion. In particular, transport, visiting and the recording of the Sunday service are areas which need to be addressed. A pastoral visitation group has been formed with the aim of increasing contact with those unable to attend church. A number of members distribute weekly recordings of the Sunday service . ACTION: Seek to identify people who need assistance to attend church, or who would benefit from receiving recordings of services and develop ways of meetings their needs. Review and improve pastoral care of the sick and elderly.

### Youth and Children's Ministry

- The Sunday school has undergone a review of its methods and organisation with the help and consultation of PCI. ACTION: Review the effectiveness changes introduced to the Sunday School
- PCI Summer Teams have been used until 2013 with a holiday bible club for primary school age group and evening events for teenagers. In 2014 with the guidance of our own youth leader we organised our own summer team to continue the work initiated with the help of PCI and this has continued in 2015. ACTION: Organize a holiday Bible Club for 2016.
- Youth leader. This has been a significant success. In 2013 we were successful in getting a young person undertaking a degree course at bible college under the CYMI scheme This youth worker encouraged and enhanced our youth work and we opened a drop-in centre in the local village for young people in the village who have no connection with any church. The youth worker has also helped greatly with the young people in the church , in uniformed organisations, the youth fellowship group and at church worship, particularly at family services. This young person has now qualified and has gained employment. ACTION: Seek to recruit a new youth worker either through church schemes or by direct recruitment. Seek to secure additional funding to expand the work of the Drop-in Centre and the outreach to young people in the Eglinton area,
- New members are still very difficult to encourage with church membership. ACTION: Explore ways of encouraging church membership among non church-goers in the Eglinton area.

### Fellowship and Commitment

## Social events

- Over the past years we have had autumn social/fundraising events with additional fundraisers for specific needs. These still remain part of our outreach/fellowship goals. ACTION: Organize further social/fundraising events
- The creation of a Men's Group has met with little success to date. ACTION: Encourage participation in CVM events and explore other possibilities to engage with men in the congregation.

## Church Profile and Witness

- **Publicity** – An initial information card detailing basic church details has been printed and has been distributed to local hotels, restaurants etc. ACTION: An ongoing publicity campaign will be maintained in the local press with the objective of increasing the awareness of the church within the local community.
- **Social Responsibility** –We recognise our responsibility within the community we live in. ACTION: Continue the outreach work with young people in the Eglinton area, within the resources of our congregation.
- **Overseas**–We have developed a link with Stephen Cowan in Kenya, helping to support him financially and prayerfully with some of his projects. ACTION: The possibility of a church team taking part in overseas mission will be considered to include not just our young people, but people of all ages. Specific fundraising will be considered to further support Stephen's work.
- **Web Site** – The church website is well established and continues to provide a wealth of information. ACTION: Maintain and, where possible, develop further the website.

## General

- **Mission Plan Focus Group** – There is a need to broaden out the mission planning function from the core 6 person mission committee. ACTION: Hold a focus group to discuss the mission plan in greater detail and from this identify four working groups which will be responsible for each section of the mission plan.
- **Prayer** – In all our plans we remember that without the Lords hand upon us we will achieve nothing, so we therefore call for both corporate and individual prayer that God would guide us all as we seek to be used in the extension of his Kingdom in Faughanvale and further afield.